

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECAB, OEXC, IT

SUBJECT: UPCOMING IV GRANTEE, CISL UNION LEADER FRANCO MARINI,
CRITICIZES CGIL

1. IN A WEEKEND STATEMENT REFERRING TO A CGIL PROPOSAL FOR A
GENERAL STRIKE AS THE TRADE UNION RESPONSE TO AN ASSUMED UNSATIS-
FACTORY CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT/UNION MEETINGS, CISL
SECRETARIAT MEMBER, FRANCO MARINI, BLASTED THE CGIL AND CALLED ITS
STRIKE PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE BOTH IN FORM AND CONTENT. MARINI
STATED THAT THE UNIONS COULD VALIDLY ANALYZE GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS
ONLY AFTER THE FINAL MEETING. HE CLAIMED THAT THE CGIL "PROPOSED"
GENERAL STRIKE INDICATES AN INTENTION TO BREAK (WITH THE GOI) AND
CONTRADICTS THE WHOLE SPIRIT OF NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH AN ATTITUDE
MAY JUSTIFY AMPLE SUSPICION AS REGARDS THE GOAL THAT THE CGIL
SEEKS THROUGH GOVERNMENT/UNION NEGOTIATIONS. THE CISL CANNOT
ACCEPT THIS (NEITHER GENERAL STRIKE NOR PRESUMED GOAL OF GOVERN-
MENT COLLAPSE FOLLOWED BY MORE OPEN PCI PARTICIPATION)."

COMMENT: MARINI'S STATEMENT IS DEMONSTRATIVE OF ENCOURAGING SIGNS
OF A REASSERTION OF CISL IDENTITY AND INFLUENCE IN FORMULATION
OF COMMON TRADE UNION POLICY. MARINI, WHO IS MENTIONED
AS POSSIBLE STORTI SUCCESSOR, OFTEN TALKS OF STRENGTHENING
AND SHAPING THE CISL FROM WITHIN IN ORDER TO BETTER CONTEND
WITH THE CGIL. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE VIEW OF EX-CISL
DEP SEC GEN SCALIA WHO SOMETIMES THREATENS SCHISM AS POSSIBLE
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MEANS TO RECREATE A TRADE UNION AKIN TO TRADITIONAL CISL AND

AS WAY TO SAVE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISM IN ITALY.
EMBASY CONSIDERS UPCOMING MARINI TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES
AS AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE TO BE QUITE IMPORTANT AND
WE HOPE THAT HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH AFL-CIO
OFFICIALS WILL LEAD TOWARD CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL DIALOGUE.
BEAUDRY

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